

REMARKS

With the amendment to claims 1, 8 and 9, applicant now believes he has overcome the Examiner's rejections to all claims based upon 35 USC §112.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended on line 5 to replace "wall" with --panel-- as there is no antecedent basis for "panel". On line 11, applicant has incorporated the Examiner's suggestion and has changed "male" to --female--. Applicant has also, on line 11, added --male-- and --part-- so as to now read --male buckle part--, which more clearly defines applicant's invention.

Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection based upon 35 USC §112 first and second paragraphs. On line 2, applicant has deleted "male buckle part includes a" and has replaced "tongue" with --resilient member is--. This amendment overcomes any uncertainty when reading claims 1 and 8 together.

Claim 9 has been amended on line 2 by deleting "tongue" and replacing it with --resilient member--. With this amendment, applicant believes he has overcome the Examiner's rejection based upon 35 USC §112 first and second paragraph.

As a result of the amendment of claim 1, applicant now believes that claims 3 and 10, which depend from claim 1, are now in condition for allowance.

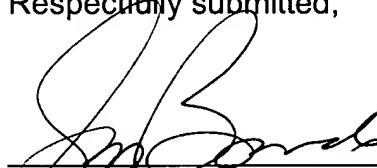
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SUMMARY

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that claims 1, 3, 8, 9, and 10 are now in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow these claims, as well as previously allowed claims 14 and 15, and pass this application to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims and ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,



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SB:mm

I:\Patent\Bianchi\556.AMENDMENT E

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (thrice amended) A two-part buckle including an auxiliary locking feature comprising:

a female buckle part including belt or strap receiving portion, and a body portion defining a recess for receiving a mating portion of a male buckle part and a pair of edge recesses and a front ~~wall~~ panel having an aperture therein completely surrounded by said front panel;

a male buckle part including a belt or strap receiving portion, and a female buckle engaging part,

a cantilevered resilient member formed integrally with said male buckle part located within the recess of said female part when said buckle is engaged;

said ~~male~~ female buckle engaging part of said male buckle part including a pair of flexible prongs for insertion into the recesses of said female part and for engaging said female part to secure the buckle parts together;

said prongs being accessible through said edge recesses for manually releasing said prongs to allow said male and female buckle parts to separate; and

a manually controlled button on said resilient member normally positioned

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in said aperture, said resilient member carrying means engaging the prongs of said male buckle part for selectively preventing the flexing of said prongs and release of said buckle parts, wherein said means which normally engage said prongs releases said prongs upon operation of said button.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (twice amended) A two-part buckle in accordance with claim 1 wherein said ~~male buckle part includes a~~ cantilevered resilient member ~~is tongue~~ located between said prongs and carrying said button.

Please amend claim 9 has follows:

9. (twice amended) A two-part buckle in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said button is carried by said cantilevered resilient member ~~tongue~~ and operational to deflect said resilient member ~~tongue~~ away from said prongs to allow said prongs to flex and to release the buckle parts.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A buckle having three interconnected release devices which are effective in maintaining the buckle engagement at all times when engagement is intended. The

5 buckle having both a male and female buckle part where the male buckle part includes
E3 a pair of flexible prongs and a cantilevered resilient member with a manually- controlled button. The female buckle part is designed to receive and hold the flexible prongs and resilient member, and once inserted, the male buckle part cannot be withdrawn from the female buckle part unless and until the manually-controlled button is depressed.
